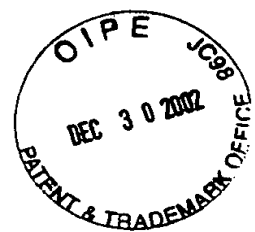


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Attorney Docket: 225/49427
PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: ERIK KRIMM ET AL
Serial No.: 09/726,589 Group Art Unit: 3679
Filed: DECEMBER 1, 2000 Examiner: ERNESTO GARCIA
Title: GEAR SHIFT MECHANISM GATE PLATE ASSEMBLY AND
METHOD FOR PRODUCING SAME

REPLY

Box Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

December 30, 2002

JAN 02 2003

GROUP 3600

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action dated November 30, 2002.

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested for Claims 1-32 in view of the following remarks.

It is noted with appreciation that Claims 5-7, 22, and 23 are deemed allowable.

Responsive to the election requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the species relating to riveting. This election is made with traverse. The traversal is on the grounds that the Office Action notes Claim 5 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising the stamped parts being riveted, soldered, or welded. However, Claim 5, which depends from Claims 1 and 4, does not contain the limitation that the stamped parts are